

Dear North Park Viking students and families,

I am writing to you today with a wonderful update about Fall 2020!

We are hard at work getting North Park University ready to open for living and learning this fall! Throughout the past six weeks, our Campus Reopening Task Force has been working daily on the many details for a safe opening in August. This task force is made up of a dedicated group of faculty, staff and University leaders who are committed to the safety and well-being of our entire campus community.

Following all guidelines provided by the CDC, Restore Illinois and the City of Chicago, North Park will have many new protocols in place to protect your educational and residential experience, along with a modified academic calendar to maximize in-person academic and co-curricular activities in a safe and achievable format.

We are planning for multiple modes of academic delivery: many classes will be delivered in our traditional in-person format, while some classes will be online, and others will be a combination of in-person and online. This is all being thoughtfully developed in order to support the health and safety of all students and faculty members, including those who are unable to be in person, on campus with us in the fall.

We have established a new [Fall 2020 website](#) which will list all updates and announcements about the fall, along with a growing FAQ section to help you plan throughout the summer and arrive on campus ready for a safe and successful experience.

One important note regarding our academic calendar to keep in mind as you are planning – classes will begin as planned on Monday, August 24 and conclude before the Thanksgiving holiday. We will hold classes on Monday, September 7 (Labor Day) and Friday, October 16 (previously scheduled as Fall Break) in order to conclude the fall semester on Wednesday, November 25.

Reading Day is scheduled for November 30 and final exams will be administered online, December 1 to December 4.

This schedule allows residential students the flexibility to make one trip to campus in the fall, with a return home for the semester by Thanksgiving – reducing potential risk that excessive travel may present.

Listed below you will see other details we are working on, all to help achieve a safe and meaningful North Park experience. There are many more details to come. Stay tuned!

- Early arrival and the official starting dates for fall student athletes will be finalized and communicated in the very near future.

-The development of a classroom plan for in-person instruction that reduces classroom capacity but also adds large non-traditional spaces (i.e. Anderson Chapel, Hamming Hall, Isaacson Chapel, etc.) as classrooms to increase physical distancing.

-Single room residence hall occupancy, if desired by students or required by guidelines.

-Availability for quarantine rooms, if/when positive tests occur.

-Dining services offered in multiple formats, including “grab and go.”

-A community commitment to daily wellness self-assessments - taking temperature and checking symptoms before attending class or arriving on campus each day.

-Physical distancing observed in all campus locations.

-Use of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) on campus, including universal masking in common buildings.

-North Park branded PPE will be included in a Wellness Welcome Kit for you!

-Safety measures and methods available for students, faculty and staff in higher risk categories.

-Support from and partnership with Swedish Hospital, just two blocks from campus.

-Online learning available for international or domestic students who cannot travel to campus to attend North Park in person in the fall.

-Shared responsibility in achieving safe and sanitary environments.

Most of our campus facilities will be open and available for your use, with healthy practices and occupancy protocols in place. And our dedicated staff in the Center for Student Engagement stands ready to support your success as a student and contributing member of the North Park community.

Two final notes – one, is our promise. The second, is our challenge. We believe you are ready to embrace both.

At North Park University, we take our commitment to support and encourage your educational progress, your spiritual development and your professional preparation very seriously. It is truly our sacred privilege and obligation to advance our mission by serving YOU, our students, every day. We promise to continue the work of preparation throughout the summer to deliver the best fall semester we can.

Second, our challenge. As you are preparing for fall semester at North Park, plan to bring a sense of creativity, adaptability, flexibility, and a good dose of personal resolve. Many things on campus and in the classroom will look the same as you remember them. But some things will be different and will require our patience, flexibility and participation to maintain communal safety for students as well as faculty and staff.

Later this summer you will hear more about the Viking Shield – a pledge we will all be taking to be diligent about self-assessments, hand hygiene, masking and best practices to help prevent the spread of any infection. It's up to ALL of us to work toward a safe and healthy semester.

Students, I know you love your professors and mentors – and they are counting on you to help us follow the good protocols we will have in place. We are ALL in this together and looking forward to welcoming you back to campus.

Finally – thank you for being “faithful in prayer, patient in affliction and joyful in hope!” – Romans 12:12

This is a challenging – but very exciting – time to be a student at North Park University.

Watch for more updates through the summer and we look forward to seeing you in the fall. Until then, may God bless you and keep you.

With faith and hope,

Mary K. SurrIDGE
President

Share this email:



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt out](#) using TrueRemove™

Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.

View this email [online](#).

3225 W Foster Ave
Chicago, IL | 60625 US

This email was sent to .

To continue receiving our emails, add us to your address book.

emma